

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of: Diane C. Thornton, et al.)	Confirmation No: 1984
)	
Serial No.: 10/729,496)	Group Art Unit: 2162
)	
Filed: December 5, 2003)	Examiner: Colan, Giovanna B.
)	
For: Fiber Splice Assignment and Management System)	Atty. Docket No.: 190250-1790
)	

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 41.37

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P.O. Box 1450
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Sir:

This Appeal Brief under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37 is submitted in support of the Notice of Appeal filed April 2, 2007, responding to the final Office Action mailed November 1, 2006.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees are required to consider this Appeal Brief. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 20-0778.

I. Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest is BellSouth Intellectual Property Corporation, a Corporation of the State of Delaware, having a place of business at 824 Market Street, Suite 901, Wilmington, DE 19801.

II. Related Appeals and Interferences

There are no known related appeals or interferences that will affect or be affected by a decision in this Appeal.

III. Status of Claims

Claims 1-24 stand finally rejected. No claims have been allowed. The final rejections of claims 1-24 are appealed.

IV. Status of Amendments

This application was originally filed on December 5, 2003, with twenty-four (24) claims. In a Response filed August 21, 2006, Applicant amended claims 1, 9, and 17. The claims in the attached Claims Appendix (see below) reflect the present state of Applicant's claims.

V. Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The claimed inventions are summarized below with reference numerals and references to the written description ("specification") and drawings. The subject matter described in the following appears in the original disclosure at least where indicated, and may further appear in other places within the original disclosure.

Embodiments according to independent claim 1 describe a fiber splice management and assignment system. The system comprises a database (FIG. 1B, 165) operable to store a fiber splice record associated with a wirecenter. The fiber splice record identifies a fiber splice job to be performed at the wirecenter. The fiber splice management and assignment system (FIG. 1A, 120) tracks workflow of fiber splice jobs identified by a plurality of fiber splice records. The fiber splice jobs correspond to generated engineering work-orders. The system comprises assignment logic (FIG. 1B, 160) coupled to the database (FIG. 1B, 165), operable to assign a fiber splice record associated with a fiber splice job for the wirecenter to a draftsman and to record the assignment. The fiber splice management and assignment system (FIG. 1A, 120) is configured to identify each fiber splice record assigned to the draftsman, where the draftsman is assigned to make changes shown in a generated engineering work-order to the fiber splice record. Such a system also comprises completion logic (FIG. 1B, 160) coupled to the database (FIG. 1B, 165), operable to receive a request to close the fiber splice record from the draftsman, and receive a credit amount associated with the fiber splice job from a fiber splice manager. The credit amount is assigned to the draftsman

that performed the fiber splice job. Applicant's specification, pages 8-16, lines 19-14; pages 38-40, lines 21-9; FIG. 34.

Embodiments according to independent claim 9 describe a method for assigning and managing a plurality of fiber splice jobs. The method comprises storing a fiber splice record associated with a wirecenter in a database (FIG. 1B, 165), where the fiber splice record identifies a fiber splice job to be performed at the wirecenter. The fiber splice job corresponds to a generated engineering work-order. The method comprises assigning (FIG. 34, block 3405) a fiber splice record associated with a fiber splice job for the wirecenter to a draftsman as part of workflow tracking process for fiber splice jobs. The draftsman is assigned to make changes shown in the generated engineering work-order to the fiber splice record. Such a method further comprises recording (FIG. 34, block 3415) the assignment; receiving a request from a user to mark the fiber splice record as closed (FIG. 34, block 3415); and assigning (FIG. 34, block 3425) credit for the fiber splice job based upon input from a fiber splice manager. The credit is assigned to the draftsman that performed the fiber splice job. Applicant's specification, pages 8-16, lines 19-14; pages 38-40, lines 21-9; FIG. 34.

Embodiments according to independent claim 17 describe a computer readable medium having a program for assigning and managing a plurality of fiber splice jobs. The program comprises storing a fiber splice record associated with a wirecenter in a database (FIG. 1B, 165). The fiber splice record identifies a fiber splice job to be performed at the wirecenter, where the fiber splice job corresponds to a generated engineering work-order. The method comprises assigning (FIG. 34, block 3405) a fiber splice record

associated with a fiber splice job for the wirecenter to a draftsman as part of workflow tracking process for fiber splice jobs; recording (FIG. 34, block 3415) the assignment; and receiving a request from a user to mark the fiber splice record as closed (FIG. 34, block 3415). Such a method further comprises assigning (FIG. 34, block 3425) credit for the fiber splice job based upon input from a fiber splice manager. The credit is assigned to the draftsman that performed the fiber splice job. Applicant's specification, pages 8-16, lines 19-14; pages 38-40, lines 21-9; FIG. 34.

VI. Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The following grounds of rejections are to be reviewed on appeal:

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over *Kite* (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0149372 A1) in view of *VanDusen* (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0208397 A1).

VII. Arguments

The Appellant respectfully submits that Applicant's claims 1-24 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103. The Appellant respectfully requests that the Board of Patent Appeals overturn the final rejection of those claims at least for the reasons discussed below.

A. The *Kite* Disclosure

Kite describes a system for defining a resource plan. In particular, *Kite* states:

The resource planning application 170 can be one or more GIS tools that can allow a planner to define and associate

resources with geographic features in digitized maps. The resource planning application 170 may allow a user to at least partially define and/or evaluate the resources 160, the geographic information 162, the resource needs 166, and/or the location relief strategy plan 164. For example, the resource planning application 170 may allow a user to associate one or more LRS plans 164 with one of the resource needs 166, and to define which of the associated LRS plans 164 is a primary LRS plan and/or which are alternate LRS plans. When a plurality of the LRS plans are associated with a resource need, the LRS plans may be prioritized (e.g., ranked). A highest priority one of the LRS plans may then be defined as a primary LRS plan, and the other LRS plan(s) may be defined as alternate LRS plans. In some embodiments of the present invention, only one of the LRS plans 164 that are associated with one of the resource needs 166 can be defined as a primary LRS plan.

The resource planning application 170 also generates a resource plan based on the primary LRS plan and/or the alternate LRS plan. . . . For example, a resource plan may be generated based on the primary LRS plans, or it may be generated based on selected ones of the primary LRS plans and/or alternate LRS plans. A user may also define access privileges for the LRS plans, such as public or private, which may be used by the resource planning application 170 to limit access of one or more of the LRS plans to users who satisfy the defined access privileges.

The resource planning application 170 may generate a resource plan that combines all or selected ones of the primary LRS plans and/or alternate LRS plans for more than one of the defined resource needs 166, and/or the resource planning application 170 may generate a different resource plan for each of the defined resource needs 166.

Paras. 0822-0824. As such, *Kite* does not involve actual engineering work orders and associated tracking functions involving making changes to records reflecting the work being performed. Rather, *Kite* appears to teach a tool for documenting resource plans and strategies that may or may not ever be implemented.

Further, the system in *Kite* discloses assignment of fiber strands in referring to how a fiber strand is being utilized. For example, *Kite* provides

that physical fiber strands are determined to be “assigned, spare, or defective,” where “[a]ssigned is analogous to saying that a fiber is ‘lit’.” Para. 0428. As such, the teachings of *Kite* are not directed towards a fiber splice job that corresponds to a generated engineering work-order or a workflow tracking process for such fiber splice jobs.

B. The *VanDusen* Disclosure

VanDusen describes a method of doing business by creating an equity pool and compensating an associate with a portion of the equity pool. For example, *VanDusen* describes a compensation management scheme in the following:

Compensation for E-Effort staff will be based on a points-based cafeteria-style plan. Freelancers will accrue points based on job performance, critical skills, leadership, innovation and other key criteria for each project on a task milestone completion basis and expire one year from the date of issue. Points can be redeemed for cash, equity, cooperative education credits, or any combination of the three. Redemption of credits will be governed by certain guidelines. Initially, an auction market for the E-Effort tasks will determine compensation levels for tasks. Compensation is granted for work that has passed quality assurance or an integration stage. Tasks completed to a qualifying level will yield other benefits to the performer, including follow-on development work for the project. High scorers will be eligible for certain bonuses.

Para. 0310. Accordingly, the teachings of *VanDusen* are not directed towards a fiber splice job that corresponds to a generated engineering work-order or a workflow tracking process for fiber splice jobs.

C. Applicant's Claim 1

As provided in independent claim 1, Applicant claims:

A fiber splice management and assignment system, comprising:

a database operable to store a fiber splice record associated with a wirecenter, the fiber splice record identifying a fiber splice job to be performed at the wirecenter, the fiber splice management and assignment system tracking workflow of fiber splice jobs identified by a plurality of fiber splice records, the fiber splice jobs corresponding to generated engineering work-orders;

assignment logic coupled to the database, operable to assign a fiber splice record associated with a fiber splice job for the wirecenter to a draftsman and to record the assignment, wherein the fiber splice management and assignment system is configured to identify each fiber splice record assigned to the draftsman, the draftsman being assigned to make changes shown in a generated engineering work-order to the fiber splice record; and

completion logic coupled to the database, operable to receive a request to close the fiber splice record from the draftsman, and receive a credit amount associated with the fiber splice job from a fiber splice manager, the credit amount being assigned to the draftsman that performed the fiber splice job.

(Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 is allowable for at least the reason that *Kite* in view of *VanDusen* does not disclose, teach, or suggest at least "a database operable to store a fiber splice record associated with a wirecenter, the fiber splice record identifying a fiber splice job to be performed at the wirecenter, the fiber splice management and assignment system tracking workflow of fiber splice jobs identified by a plurality of fiber splice records, the fiber splice jobs corresponding to generated engineering work-orders; assignment logic coupled to the database, operable to assign a fiber splice record associated with a fiber splice job for the wirecenter to a draftsman and to record the assignment, wherein the fiber splice management and assignment system is configured to identify each fiber splice record

assigned to the draftsman, the draftsman being assigned to make changes shown in a generated engineering work-order to the fiber splice record; completion logic coupled to the database, operable to receive a request to close the fiber splice record from the draftsman, and receive a credit amount associated with the fiber splice job from a fiber splice manager, the credit amount being assigned to the draftsman that performed the fiber splice job,” as recited and emphasized above in claim 1.

For example, *Kite* discloses at most a system for defining a resource plan. In particular, *Kite* describes a resource planning application 170 for defining and/or evaluating resources 160, geographic information 162, resource needs 166, and/or location relief strategy plans 164, as previously discussed. See also paras. 0822-0824. As such, *Kite* does not involve actual engineering work orders and associated tracking functions involving making changes to records reflecting the work being performed. For at least this reason, *Kite* fails to teach or suggest “the fiber splice record identifying a fiber splice job to be performed at the wirecenter, the fiber splice management and assignment system tracking workflow of fiber splice jobs identified by a plurality of fiber splice records, the fiber splice jobs corresponding to generated engineering work-orders,” as recited in the claim. As mentioned above, *Kite* teaches a tool for documenting resource plans and strategies that may or may not ever be implemented, whereas the claimed subject matter tracks records associated with engineering work-orders.

Further, the system in *Kite* discloses assignment of fiber strands in referring to how a fiber strand is being utilized. For example, *Kite* provides that physical fiber strands are determined to be “assigned, spare, or

defective,” where “[a]ssigned is analogous to saying that a fiber is ‘lit’.” Para. 0428. The portion of *Kite* referenced in the Office Action of May 19, 2006 at paragraph 0549 is not directed to an assignment of a draftsman to a fiber splice job. For at least these reasons, *Kite* does not suggest “assignment logic coupled to the database, operable to assign a fiber splice record associated with a fiber splice job for the wirecenter to a draftsman and to record the assignment, wherein the fiber splice management and assignment system is configured to identify each fiber splice record assigned to the draftsman, the draftsman being assigned to make changes shown in a generated engineering work-order to the fiber splice record,” as recited in independent claim 1.

Further, *Kite* does not teach or suggest “assignment logic coupled to the database, operable to assign a fiber splice record associated with a fiber splice job for the wirecenter to a draftsman and to record the assignment, wherein the fiber splice management and assignment system is configured to identify each fiber splice record assigned to the draftsman; and completion logic coupled to the database, operable to receive a request to close the fiber splice record from the draftsman, and receive a credit amount associated with the fiber splice job from a fiber splice manager, the credit amount being assigned to the draftsman that performed the fiber splice job,” as recited in claim 1.

While *Kite* teaches that a technician performing a fiber splice task may utilize FMT (fiber management tool) to access information that is useful in completing the task (e.g., listing attributes of a fiber splice), this is inadequate to teach or suggest the particular system described in the claim.

With regard to *VanDusen*, it discloses a method of doing business by creating an equity pool and compensating an associate with a portion of the equity pool. *VanDusen* does not teach or suggest the features above that are also not taught and suggested by *Kite*. Accordingly, *VanDusen* fails to cure the deficiencies of the *Kite* reference in suggesting or teaching all of the claimed features in claim 1. Therefore, a *prima facie* case establishing an obviousness rejection by the proposed combination of *Kite* with *VanDusen* has not been made, and the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

D. Applicant's Claims 2-8

Because independent claim 1 is allowable over the cited art of record, dependent claims 2-8 (which depend from independent claim 1) are allowable as a matter of law for at least the reason that dependent claims 2-8 contain all the features of independent claim 1. For at least this reason, the rejections of claims 2-8 should be withdrawn.

Additionally and notwithstanding the foregoing reasons for the allowability of claims 2-8, these dependent claims recite further features and/or combinations of features (as is apparent by examination of the claims themselves) that are patentably distinct from the cited art of record. Hence, there are other reasons why these dependent claims are allowable.

E. Applicant's Claim 9

As provided in independent claim 9, Applicant claims:

A method for assigning and managing a plurality of fiber splice jobs, comprising:

storing a fiber splice record associated with a wirecenter in a database, the fiber splice record identifying a fiber splice job to be performed at the wirecenter, the fiber

splice job corresponding to a generated engineering work-order;

assigning a fiber splice record associated with a fiber splice job for the wirecenter to a draftsman as part of workflow tracking process for fiber splice jobs, the draftsman being assigned to make changes shown in the generated engineering work-order to the fiber splice record;

recording the assignment;

receiving a request from a user to mark the fiber splice record as closed; and

assigning credit for the fiber splice job based upon input from a fiber splice manager, the credit being assigned to the draftsman that performed the fiber splice job.

(Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 9 is allowable for at least the reason that *Kite* in view of *VanDusen* does not disclose, teach, or suggest at least “storing a fiber splice record associated with a wirecenter in a database, the fiber splice record identifying a fiber splice job to be performed at the wirecenter, the fiber splice job corresponding to a generated engineering work-order; assigning a fiber splice record associated with a fiber splice job for the wirecenter to a draftsman as part of workflow tracking process for fiber splice jobs, the draftsman being assigned to make changes shown in the generated engineering work-order to the fiber splice record” and “assigning credit for the fiber splice job based upon input from a fiber splice manager, the credit being assigned to the draftsman that performed the fiber splice job,” as recited and emphasized above in claim 9.

For example, *Kite* discloses at most a system for defining a resource plan. In particular, *Kite* describes a resource planning application 170 for defining and/or evaluating resources 160, geographic information 162, resource needs 166, and/or location relief strategy plans 164, as previously discussed. See also paras. 0822-0824. As such, *Kite* is focused on planning

and does not involve actual engineering work orders and associated tracking functions involving making changes to records reflecting the work being performed. For at least this reason, *Kite* fails to teach or suggest “storing a fiber splice record associated with a wirecenter in a database, the fiber splice record identifying a fiber splice job to be performed at the wirecenter, the fiber splice job corresponding to a generated engineering work-order” and “assigning a fiber splice record associated with a fiber splice job for the wirecenter to a draftsman as part of workflow tracking process for fiber splice jobs, the draftsman being assigned to make changes shown in the generated engineering work-order to the fiber splice record,” as described in claim 9.

Further, the system in *Kite* discloses assignment of fiber strands in referring to how a fiber strand is being utilized. For example, *Kite* provides that physical fiber strands are determined to be “assigned, spare, or defective,” where “[a]ssigned is analogous to saying that a fiber is ‘lit’.” Para. 0428. The portion of *Kite* referenced in the Office Action of May 19, 2006 at paragraph 0549 is not directed to an assignment of a draftsman to a fiber splice job. For at least these reasons, *Kite* does not suggest “assigning a fiber splice record associated with a fiber splice job for the wirecenter to a draftsman,” as recited in independent claim 9. Moreover, *Kite* also does not teach or suggest “assigning credit for the fiber splice job based upon input from a fiber splice manager, the credit being assigned to the draftsman that performed the fiber splice job,” as recited in claim 9.

While *Kite* teaches that a technician performing a fiber splice task may utilize FMT (fiber management tool) to access information that is useful in

completing the task (e.g., listing attributes of a fiber splice), this is inadequate to teach or suggest the particular process described in the claim.

With regard to *VanDusen*, it discloses a method of doing business by creating an equity pool and compensating an associate with a portion of the equity pool. *VanDusen* does not teach or suggest the features above that are also not taught and suggested by *Kite*. Accordingly, *VanDusen* fails to cure the deficiencies of the *Kite* reference in suggesting or teaching all of the claimed features in claim 9. Therefore, a *prima facie* case establishing an obviousness rejection by the proposed combination of *Kite* with *VanDusen* has not been made, and the rejection of claim 9 should be withdrawn.

F. Applicant's Claims 10-16

Because independent claim 9 is allowable over the cited art of record, dependent claims 10-16 (which depend from independent claim 9) are allowable as a matter of law for at least the reason that dependent claims 10-16 contain all the features of independent claim 9. For at least this reason, the rejections of claims 10-16 should be withdrawn.

Additionally and notwithstanding the foregoing reasons for the allowability of claims 10-16, these dependent claims recite further features and/or combinations of features (as is apparent by examination of the claims themselves) that are patentably distinct from the cited art of record. Hence, there are other reasons why these dependent claims are allowable.

G. Applicant's Claim 17

As provided in independent claim 17, Applicant claims:

A computer readable medium having a program for assigning and managing a plurality of fiber splice jobs, the program comprising:

storing a fiber splice record associated with a wirecenter in a database, the fiber splice record identifying a fiber splice job to be performed at the wirecenter, the fiber splice job corresponding to a generated engineering work-order;

assigning a fiber splice record associated with a fiber splice job for the wirecenter to a draftsman as part of workflow tracking process for fiber splice jobs, the draftsman being assigned to make changes shown in the generated engineering work-order to the fiber splice record;

recording the assignment;

receiving a request from a user to mark the fiber splice record as closed; and

assigning credit for the fiber splice job based upon input from a fiber splice manager, the credit being assigned to the draftsman that performed the fiber splice job.

(Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 17 is allowable for at least the reason that *Kite* in view of *VanDusen* does not disclose, teach, or suggest at least “storing a fiber splice record associated with a wirecenter in a database, the fiber splice record identifying a fiber splice job to be performed at the wirecenter, the fiber splice job corresponding to a generated engineering work-order; assigning a fiber splice record associated with a fiber splice job for the wirecenter to a draftsman as part of workflow tracking process for fiber splice jobs, the draftsman being assigned to make changes shown in the generated engineering work-order to the fiber splice record” and “assigning credit for the fiber splice job based upon input from a fiber splice manager, the credit being assigned to the draftsman that performed the fiber splice job,” as recited and emphasized above in claim 17.

For example, *Kite* discloses at most a system for defining a resource plan. In particular, *Kite* describes a resource planning application 170 for defining and/or evaluating resources 160, geographic information 162, resource needs 166, and/or location relief strategy plans 164, as previously discussed. See *also* paras. 0822-0824. As such, *Kite* is focused on planning and does not seem to involve actual engineering work orders and associated tracking functions involving making changes to records reflecting the work being performed. For at least this reason, *Kite* fails to teach or suggest “storing a fiber splice record associated with a wirecenter in a database, the fiber splice record identifying a fiber splice job to be performed at the wirecenter, the fiber splice job corresponding to a generated engineering work-order” and “assigning a fiber splice record associated with a fiber splice job for the wirecenter to a draftsman as part of workflow tracking process for fiber splice jobs, the draftsman being assigned to make changes shown in the generated engineering work-order to the fiber splice record,” as described in claim 17.

Further, the system in *Kite* discloses assignment of fiber strands in referring to how a fiber strand is being utilized. For example, *Kite* provides that physical fiber strands are determined to be “assigned, spare, or defective,” where “[a]ssigned is analogous to saying that a fiber is ‘lit’.” Para. 0428. The portion of *Kite* referenced in the Office Action of May 19, 2006 at paragraph 0549 is not directed to an assignment of a draftsman to a fiber splice job. For at least these reasons, *Kite* does not suggest “assigning a fiber splice record associated with a fiber splice job for the wirecenter to a draftsman,” as recited in independent claim 17. Moreover, *Kite* also does not

teach or suggest “assigning credit for the fiber splice job based upon input from a fiber splice manager, the credit being assigned to the draftsman that performed the fiber splice job,” as recited in claim 17.

While *Kite* teaches that a technician performing a fiber splice task may utilize FMT (fiber management tool) to access information that is useful in completing the task (e.g., listing attributes of a fiber splice), this is inadequate to teach or suggest the particular process described in the claim.

With regard to *VanDusen*, it discloses a method of doing business by creating an equity pool and compensating an associate with a portion of the equity pool. *VanDusen* does not teach or suggest the features above that are also not taught and suggested by *Kite*. Accordingly, *VanDusen* fails to cure the deficiencies of the *Kite* reference in suggesting or teaching all of the claimed features in claim 17. Therefore, a *prima facie* case establishing an obviousness rejection by the proposed combination of *Kite* with *VanDusen* has not been made, and the rejection of claim 17 should be withdrawn.

H. Applicant’s Claims 18-24

Because independent claim 17 is allowable over the cited art of record, dependent claims 18-24 (which depend from independent claim 17) are allowable as a matter of law for at least the reason that dependent claims 18-24 contain all the features of independent claim 17. For at least this reason, the rejections of claims 18-24 should be withdrawn.

Additionally and notwithstanding the foregoing reasons for the allowability of claims 18-24, these dependent claims recite further features and/or combinations of features (as is apparent by examination of the claims


themselves) that are patentably distinct from the cited art of record. Hence, there are other reasons why these dependent claims are allowable.

VIII. Conclusion

In summary, it is Applicant's position that Applicant's claims are patentable over the applied cited art references and that the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn. Appellant therefore respectfully requests that the Board of Appeals overturn the Examiner's rejection and allow Applicant's pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


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Claims Appendix under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(viii)

The following are the claims that are involved in this Appeal.

1. A fiber splice management and assignment system, comprising:
a database operable to store a fiber splice record associated with a wirecenter, the fiber splice record identifying a fiber splice job to be performed at the wirecenter, the fiber splice management and assignment system tracking workflow of fiber splice jobs identified by a plurality of fiber splice records, the fiber splice jobs corresponding to generated engineering work-orders;

assignment logic coupled to the database, operable to assign a fiber splice record associated with a fiber splice job for the wirecenter to a draftsman and to record the assignment, wherein the fiber splice management and assignment system is configured to identify each fiber splice record assigned to the draftsman, the draftsman being assigned to make changes shown in a generated engineering work-order to the fiber splice record; and

completion logic coupled to the database, operable to receive a request to close the fiber splice record from the draftsman, and receive a credit amount associated with the fiber splice job from a fiber splice manager, the credit amount being assigned to the draftsman that performed the fiber splice job.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the completion logic is further operable to receive a job number assignment from the fiber splice manager.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein the assignment logic is further operable to create a printable cover sheet for the fiber splice record.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the fiber splice job comprises providing a logical connection across a network element that previously resulted in a disconnect between a fiber input and output.

5. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
reporting logic operable to provide a plurality of users with the fiber splice record.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein the reporting logic is operable to provide the plurality of users with a plurality of unassigned fiber splice records.

7. The system of claim 5, wherein the reporting logic is operable to provide the plurality of users with a report of any fiber splice records which have been assigned to a particular user.

8. The system of claim 5, wherein the reporting logic is operable to provide the plurality of users with a report of any fiber splice records which have been marked as completed in the database.

9. A method for assigning and managing a plurality of fiber splice jobs, comprising:

storing a fiber splice record associated with a wirecenter in a database, the fiber splice record identifying a fiber splice job to be performed at the wirecenter, the fiber splice job corresponding to a generated engineering work-order;

assigning a fiber splice record associated with a fiber splice job for the wirecenter to a draftsman as part of workflow tracking process for fiber splice jobs, the draftsman being assigned to make changes shown in the generated engineering work-order to the fiber splice record;

recording the assignment;

receiving a request from a user to mark the fiber splice record as closed; and

assigning credit for the fiber splice job based upon input from a fiber splice manager, the credit being assigned to the draftsman that performed the fiber splice job.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising assigning a job number to the fiber splice record responsive to input from the fiber splice manager.

11. The method of claim 9, further comprising creating a printable cover sheet for the fiber splice record.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein the fiber splice job comprises providing a logical connection across a network element that previously resulted in a disconnect between a fiber input and output.

13. The method of claim 9, further comprising providing a plurality of users with the fiber splice record in a report format.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising providing a plurality of users with a report of any fiber splice records which have not been assigned to any of a plurality of draftsmen.

15. The method of claim 13, further comprising providing the plurality of users with a report of any fiber splice records which have been assigned to a particular user.

16. The method of claim 13, further comprising providing a plurality of users with a report of any fiber splice records which have been marked as completed in the database.

17. A computer readable medium having a program for assigning and managing a plurality of fiber splice jobs, the program comprising:

storing a fiber splice record associated with a wirecenter in a database, the fiber splice record identifying a fiber splice job to be performed at the wirecenter, the fiber splice job corresponding to a generated engineering work-order;

assigning a fiber splice record associated with a fiber splice job for the wirecenter to a draftsman as part of workflow tracking process for fiber splice jobs;

recording the assignment;

receiving a request from a user to mark the fiber splice record as closed; and

assigning credit for the fiber splice job based upon input from a fiber splice manager, the credit being assigned to the draftsman that performed the fiber splice job.

18. The program of claim 17, further comprising assigning a job number to the fiber splice record responsive to input from the fiber splice manager.

19. The program of claim 17, further comprising creating a printable cover sheet for the fiber splice record.

20. The program of claim 17, wherein the fiber splice job comprises providing a logical connection across a network element that previously resulted in a disconnect between a fiber input and output.

21. The program of claim 17, further comprising providing a plurality of users with the fiber splice record in a report format.

22. The program of claim 21, further comprising providing a plurality of users with a report of any fiber splice records which have not been assigned to any of a plurality of draftsmen.

23. The program of claim 21, further comprising providing the plurality of users with a report of any fiber splice records which have been assigned to a particular user.

24. The program of claim 21, further comprising providing a plurality of users with a report of any fiber splice records which have been marked as completed in the database.

Evidence Appendix under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(ix)

There is no extrinsic evidence to be considered in this Appeal.

Therefore, no evidence is presented in this Appendix.

Related Proceedings Appendix under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(x)

There are no related proceedings to be considered in this Appeal.

Therefore, no such proceedings are identified in this Appendix.